

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 9-11 with the following amended paragraph:

Moreover, it is preferable that the cutoff plate 161 is greater than opened parts having the supporting part 162 of the ~~burned~~ burner mat 150 passed therethrough, and the sealing member 163 is greater than the cutoff plate 161.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 15-17 with the following amended paragraph:

In this case too, it is preferable that the sealing member 163 is provided between the cutoff plate 161 and the upper surface of the burner mat 150, and it is preferable that the cutoff plate 161 is fastened to the supporting part 162 with screws 162a.

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, lines 14-21 with the following amended paragraph:

In this instance, the mixed gas can not reach to a part of a surface of the burner mat 150 to which the cutoff plate 161 is in close contact thereto. Consequently, the mixed gas flows toward a neighborhood of the part to which the cutoff plate 161 is in close contact thereto. Since a mixed gas flow toward the central part of the burner mat 150 is smooth, the mixed gas ~~flow~~ flows toward the neighborhood and flows toward the outer side part of the burner mat 150.

Especially, the supporting part 162, supporting the cutoff plate 161, serves to guide the gas to flow toward the outer side of the burner mat 150 additionally, which permits a uniform surface combustion throughout entire part of the burner mat 150.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 7-10 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 8, the burner assembly is suggested to have an inner burner mat 251 and an outer burner mat 252, separate from each other. A separated part between the inner burner mat 251 and the outer burner mat 252 forms a non-combusting area, while the inner[[,]] and outer burner mats form combusting area.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, line 25-page 11, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The variation of a burner assembly in accordance with a second preferred embodiment of the present invention includes an inner burner mat 251 and an outer burner mat 252, and a connecting member 264 for connecting the inner mat 251 and the outer mat 252. The connecting member 264 connects the separated burner mats 251 and 252, as well as surrounds connected parts of the burner mats 251 and 252. Especially, opposite edges of the connecting member 264 are recess for receiving the connected parts of the burner mats 251 and 252.